NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d) In pursuance of the Inter-Governmental agreement dated 24th November, 1987 between the Governments of India and USSR, the Soviet Organisation M|s. Techmashimport had submitted a revised offer on turn-key basis for Karnal Refinery, which is under Government's consideration.

Crisis in Beedi industry due to shortage of tendu leaves

*197. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether beedi manufacturers are experiencing shortage of tendu leaves as a result of which beedi manufacturing industry is facing a crisis; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to save the beedi industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir, there is no shortage of tendu leaves in the country to meet the requirement of beedi manufacturing industry.

(b) Does not arise.

Shifting of godowns of crude oil and petroleum products from congested areas

*198. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a working group has been set up by his Ministry to go into the question of shifting the godowns of crude oil and petroleum products from the precincts of refineries and from congested areas so as to reduce the fire hazards; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The Government have recently set up a High Powered Committee to review the recent major fire accidents in refineries. The Committee would *inter alia* review the locations layouts and existing facilities in the refineries and would also make recommendations regarding shifting of bulk storage of crude oil and petroleum products to safer locations.

Power generation by Neyveli Lignite Corporation

*199. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present power generating capacity of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation;

(b) what are the details of future expansion of plans of the Corporation;

(c) whether any foreign collaboration is being sought for in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) by when all the projects under the Neyveli Lignite Corporation are expected to be completed, project-wise; and

(e) how much funds are required for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The present power generating capacity of Neyveli Lignite Corporation is 1230 MW made up of 600 MW of the first thermal power station and 630 MW of the second thermal power station stage I.

(b) to (e) Project for the expansion of thermal power station II raising its capacity from 630 MW to 1470 MW by addition of 4 units of 210 MW each is under construction. The sanctioned capital cost of the project is Rs. 1016.80 crores. The first unit of this project is expected to be commissioned in November, 1990 and the subsequent units at intervals of nine months thereafter. The foreign exchange requirement of the project

estimated at DM 176 million is being financed by KFW, a West German financing agency.

An additional unit of 210 MW to be added to the thermal power station II stage I (Zero unit) has been sanctioned at a capital cost of Rs. 397.26 crores. This unit is expected to be commissioned in 1992. The foreign exchange requirement of the project is proposed to be met from Hungarian-Italian sources. An agreement for credit upto US $ 200 million which would also cover the foreign exchange requirement of this project has been concluded with the Government of Hungary.

The future plans of NLC include the following new power projects:

Name of the project	Capacity	Currently estimated cost
Addition of 2x210 MW units to the first TPS at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu	2x210 MW	Rs. 732 crores
Banisnghsar TPS in Bikaner District of Rajasthan	2x210 MW	Rs. 496 crores
Third TPS at Neyveli Tamil Nadu . . .	3x500 MW	Rs. 2254 crores

Setting up of industries in Punjab

*200 SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to set up industries in Punjab during the last six months;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have provided|propose to provide any incentives to these industries; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d) The Government is giving all possible help to step up pace of industrialisation in Punjab. Punjab is given highest priority in licensing. While there had been on proposal under consideration of Central Government to set up new Central Public Sector Units in Punjab during the last six months, during 1989 (upto June) 22 letters of intent, 8 industrial licences, 96 delicensed industries registrations 2 DGTD registrations and 26 exempted industries registraitons have been issued.

Districts of Hoshiarpur, Sangrur Bhatinda Ferozepur, Gurdaspur and Amritsar (as a special case) have been identified as Industrially Backward Districts. Enterpreneurs setting up industries in these districts are eligible fo priority in the grant of licences, concessional finance, concessions under the Income Tax Act, etc. No licence is required for investments made upto Rs. 50 crores in Industrially Backward Areas and Rs. 15 crores elsewhere subject to certain locational guidelines. They are also eligible for Central Investment Subsidy on the projects approved by State Level Committee|District Level Committee upto 30th September, 1988. Under the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme, an amount of Rs. 9.90 crores had been reimbursed to Punjab during the last 4 years for the units set up in the above mentioned districts as per details given below:

(Rs. in crores)

1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
2.80	2.28	2.22	2.60